

Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

Partnership for America's Great Outdoors

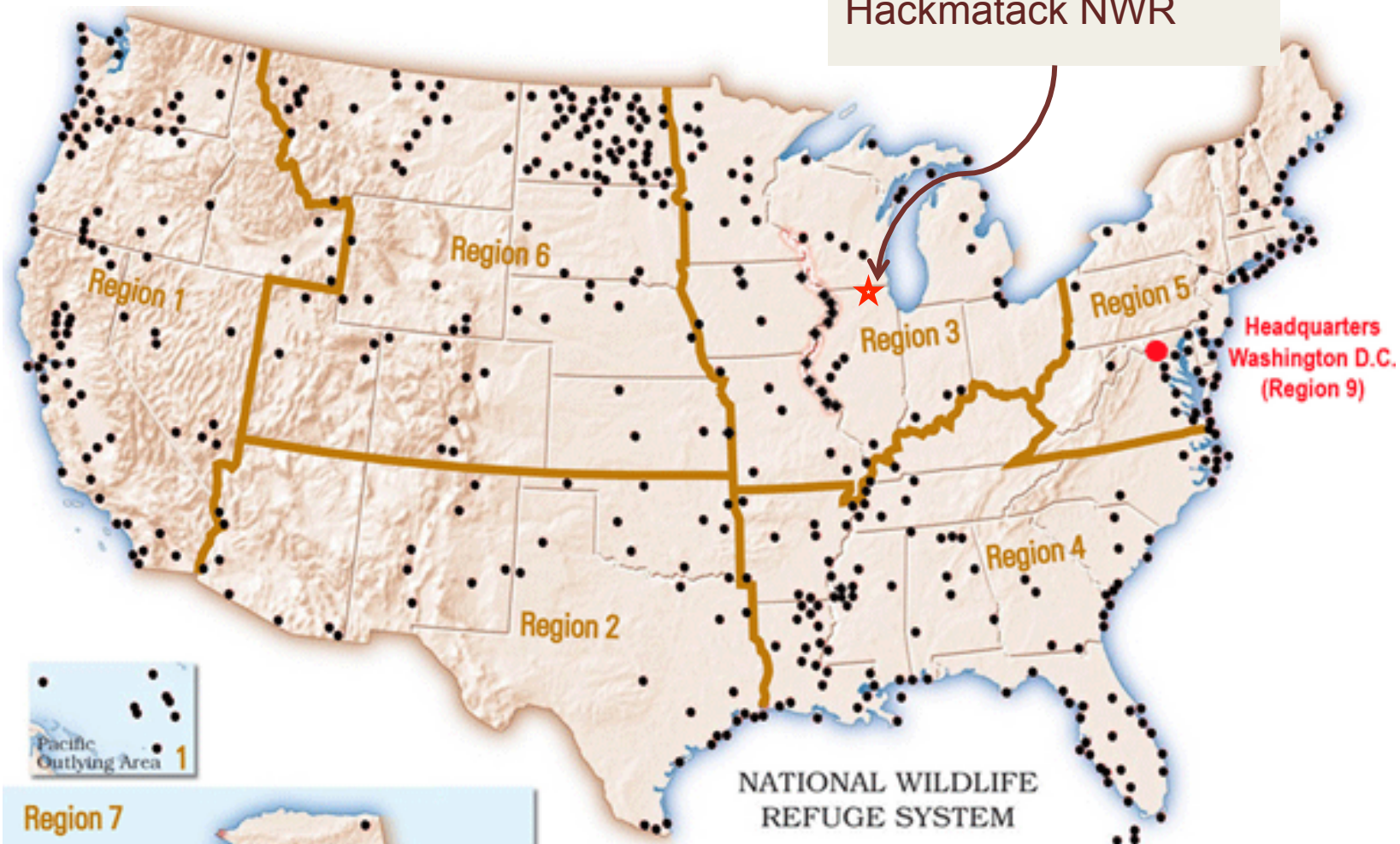


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Principle federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the benefit of the American people.
- Enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, and manages migratory bird populations.



Hackmatack NWR



● National Wildlife Refuge

s.Base Map,courtesyof Tibor G. Toth (www.totgraphix.com)



What is a National Wildlife Refuge?



Refuges are Different

National Forests: Multiple use
(timber, recreation, grazing,
fish and wildlife)

National Parks: Scenic and
historic significance

Bureau of Land Management:
Multiple use (resource
extraction/use, recreation)

National Wildlife Refuges:

- Primary use is wildlife conservation
- Priority uses encouraged
- Other general recreation can be considered



Pelican Island, Florida

5.1 Acres

#1

1903



Hackmatack Illinois/Wisconsin
11,200 Acres
#561 2012





Establishing the Refuge:

USFWS needs ownership interest in land in the refuge boundary.

Openlands acquires the first parcel and transfers an easement on 12 acres to USFWS, IDNR buys whole parcel (72 acres).

MCCD agrees to do restoration.



McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Centennial Trail Boardwalk with Refuge Planks: Pelican Island NWR





**USFWS Midwest
Regional Director
Tom Melius**

**John Rogner
USFWS/ IDNR**

**USFWS Midwest
Region Deputy
Regional Director
Charlie Wooley**

**Director
Marc Miller
Illinois DNR
Dan Ashe
USFWS**

**Charlie Pelizza
Pelican Island
Refuge Manager**

**Secretary of Interior
Ken Salazar**

**Beth White
Trust for Public
Land**

**Margaret Lass-Gardiner
Friends of Hackmatack**

**Lenore Beyer-Clow
Openlands**





Hack-ma-tack

"Hackmatack" is an Algonquin Indian word for Tamarack tree.



"Between sections 20 and 21 Township 46 north, Range 8 east of the third principal meridian: North 40 chains Raised a mound in which set a post for quarter section corner. Timber white oak and black oak, soil good, land rolling and fit for cultivation. Swamp can't be cultivated, about 20 chains west of corner a grove of tamarack . . ."

Public Land Survey Notes from August of 1837

Tamarack

Hackmatack is the Algonquin Indian word for Tamarack Tree

Conservation Partnership Land Protection Criteria

- Proximity to existing protected lands
- Meaningful and significant contribution to regional conservation through land management and restoration
- Number of land owners to make coherent focus
- Costs
- Unique habitats
- Stream corridors
- Access
- Restoration potential



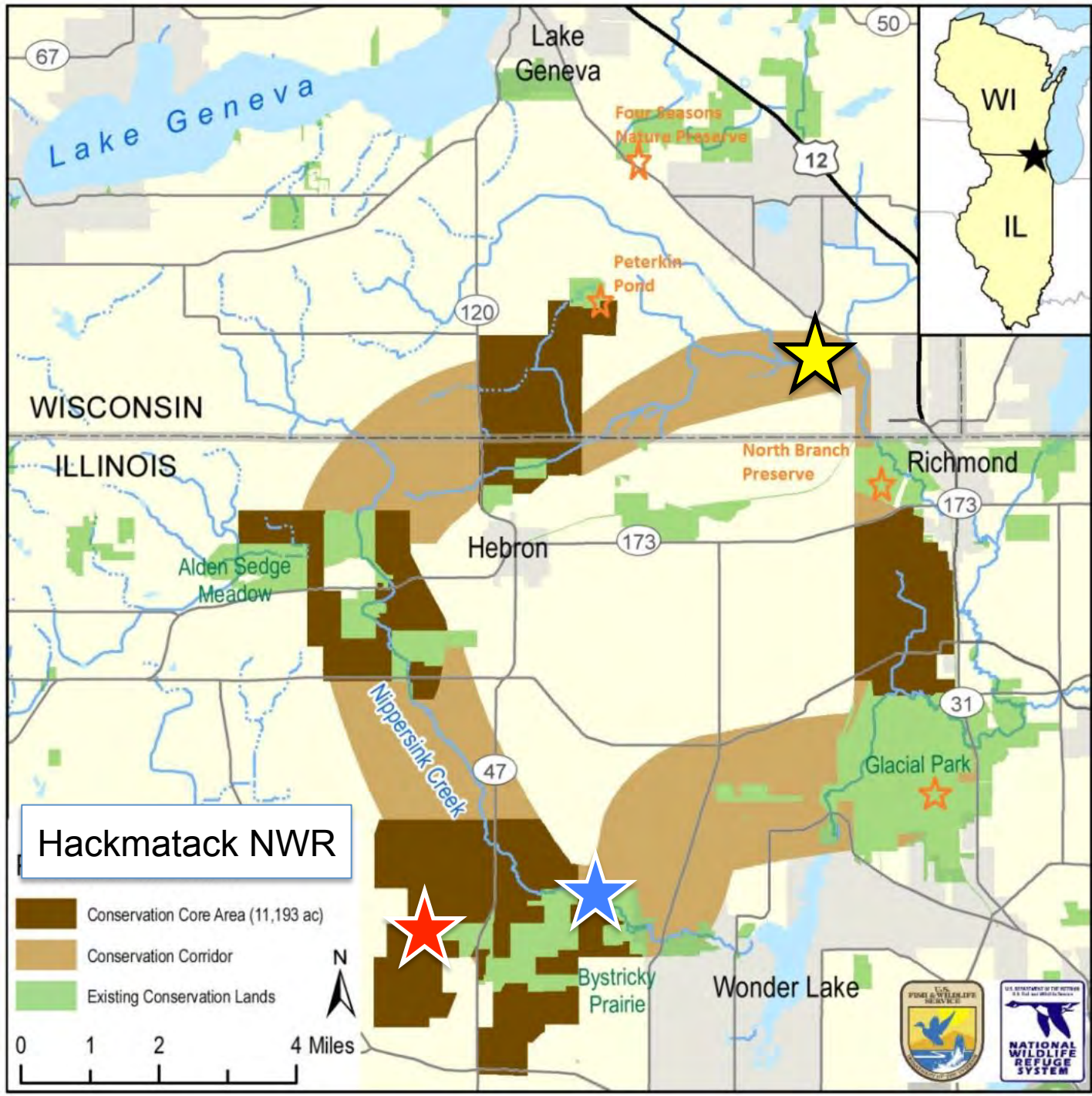
Implementing a land protection strategy

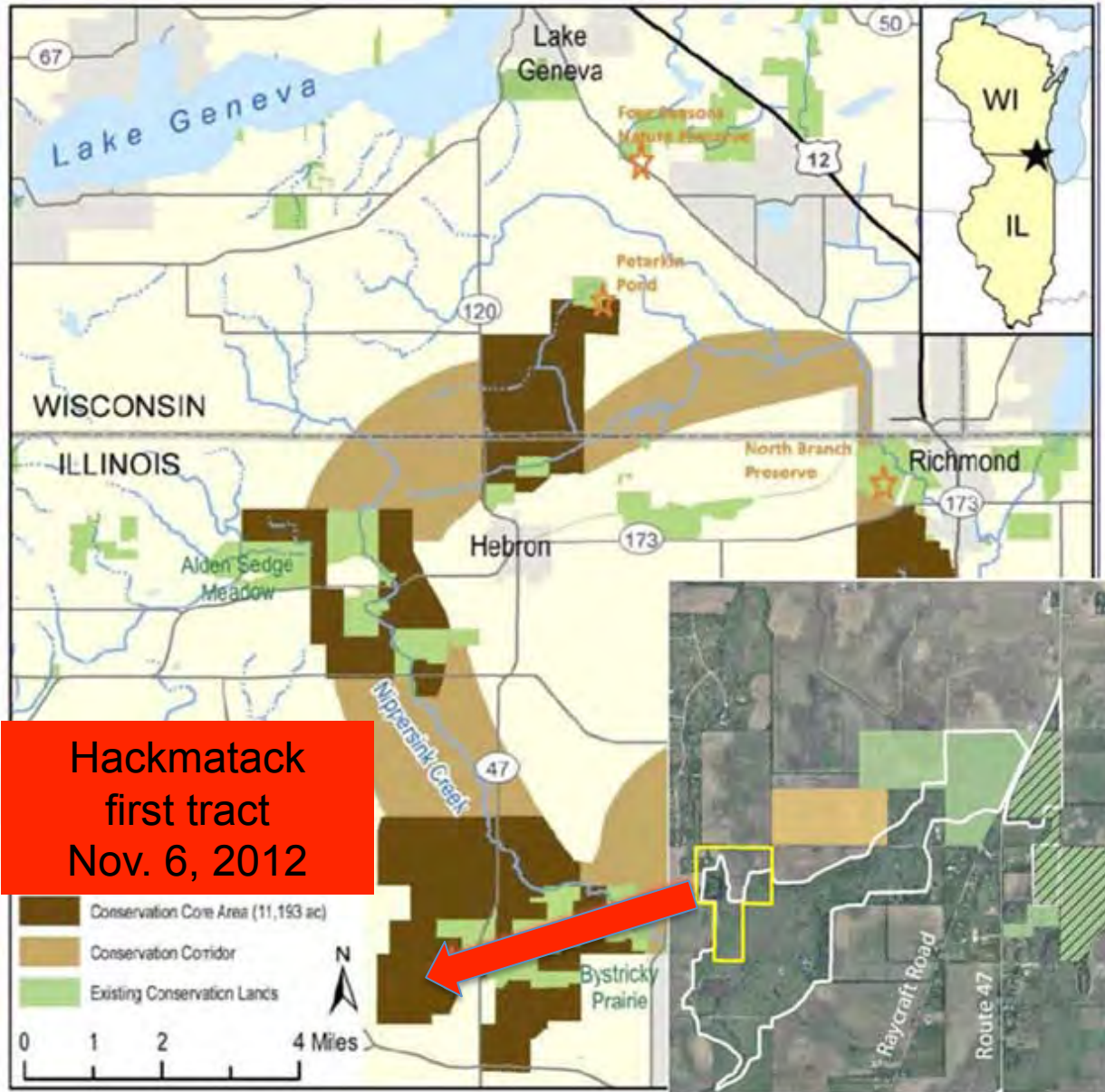
Core areas – USFWS fee title purchase of functioning grasslands, oak savanna, or wetlands of significant importance to protect federally listed species and migratory birds

Corridors – restore and protect riparian corridors linking core areas with adjacent conservation lands; establish recreational trails



Willing sellers





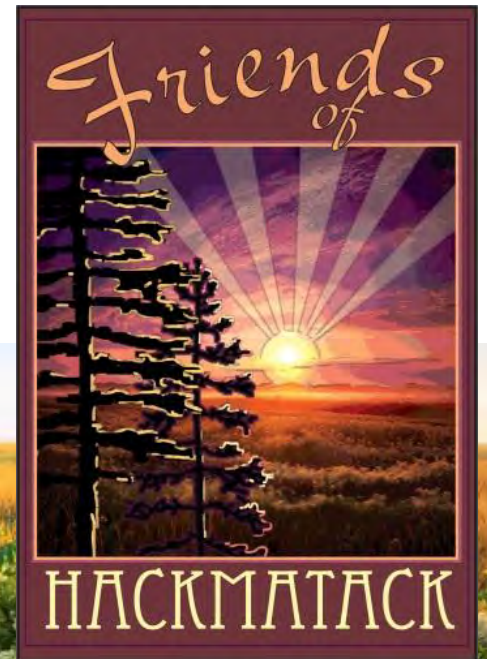
Hackmatack
first tract
Nov. 6, 2012



Friends of Hackmatack Steering Committee visits 12-acre easement, the first piece of Hackmatack NWR.



openlands
conserving nature for life



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION
AWARD

*In recognition of outstanding conservation achievements
attained through collaboration and partnership with others*

*Friends of Hackmatack
National Wildlife Refuge Partnership
is hereby awarded this certificate in the year 2012*



Ken Salazar

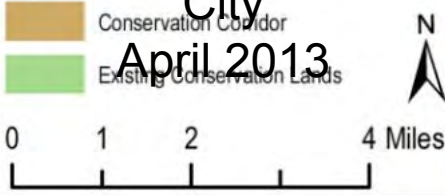
Secretary of the Interior





Ducks Unlimited purchases 86 acres north of Genoa City

April 2013



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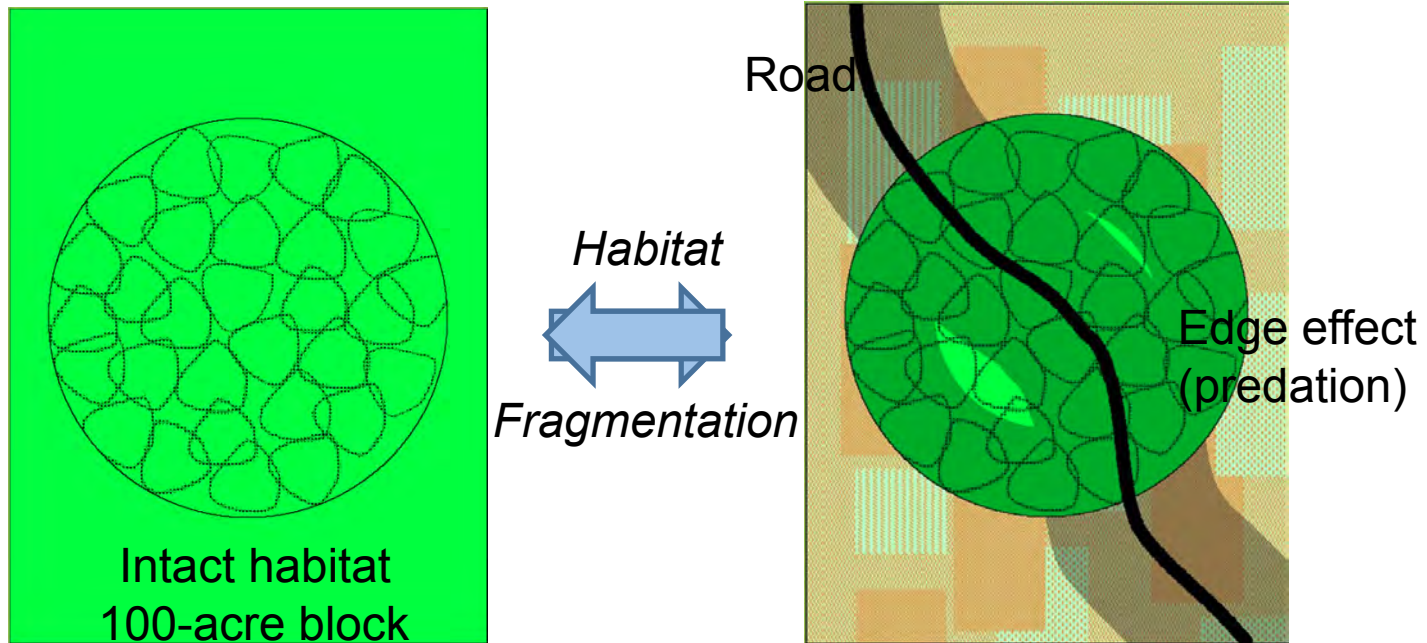


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HACKMATAACK IS FOR THE BIRDS!

The anticipated wildlife benefits
of a built-out
Hackmataack National Wildlife
Refuge

Conservation Biology



Supports 25 breeding
pairs of Species X

Supports 2 breeding
pairs of Species X

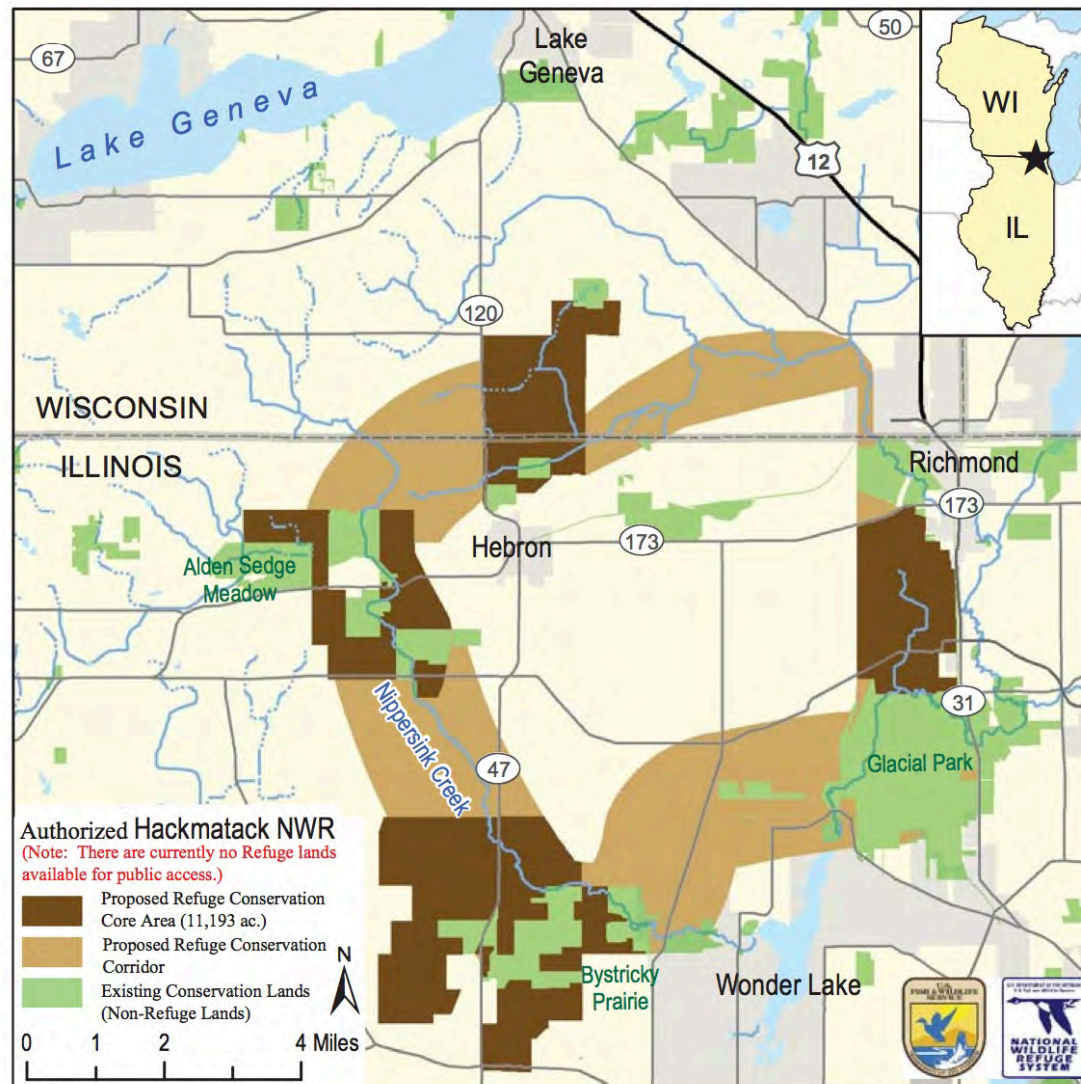
BLOCK SIZE HAS A > PROPORTIONAL EFFECT ON CAP

Source : UNH Extension

What will Hackmatack NWR add?

- Wetlands -- ~880 acres of restored, high-quality
- Grasslands -- ~8,150 acres of new, high-quality
- Four new habitat corridor connections
- All placed strategically to work in conjunction with existing conservation lands
 - Public (DNR, MCCD)
 - Private (easements)

“A String of Pearls”

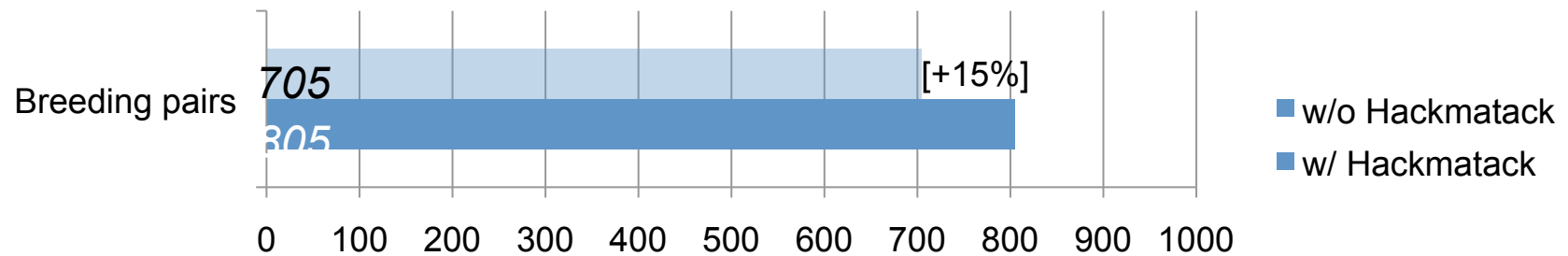


Savanna Birds



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Target species for IL and WI Wildlife Action Plans,
Region 3 Conservation Priority

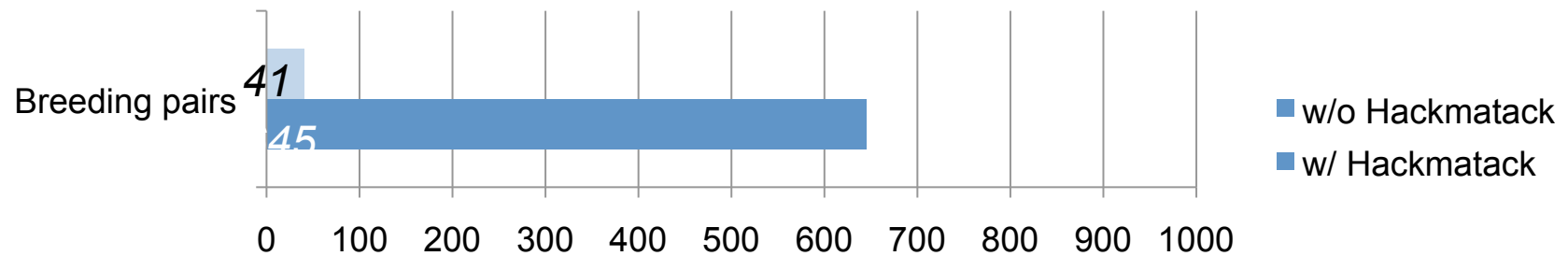


Wetland Birds



PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*)

Target species for Illinois Wildlife Action Plan,
North American Wildlife Management Priority

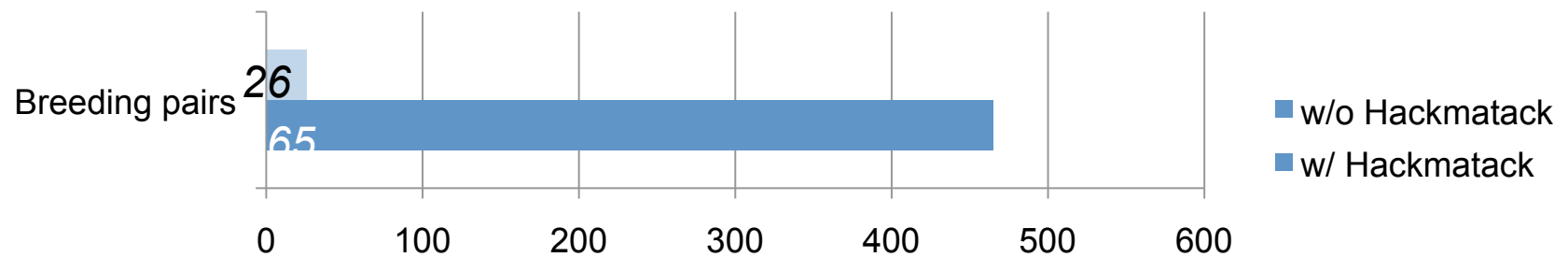


Wetland Birds



LEAST BITTERN (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

Illinois State Threatened Species,
Region 3 Conservation Priority

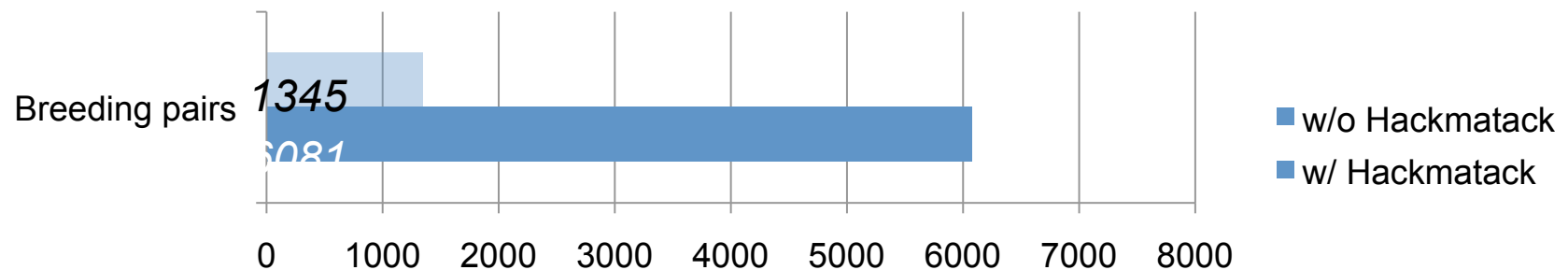


Grassland Birds



HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

Illinois State Threatened Species,
Target Species for IL & WI Wildlife Action Plans,
Region 3 Conservation Priority

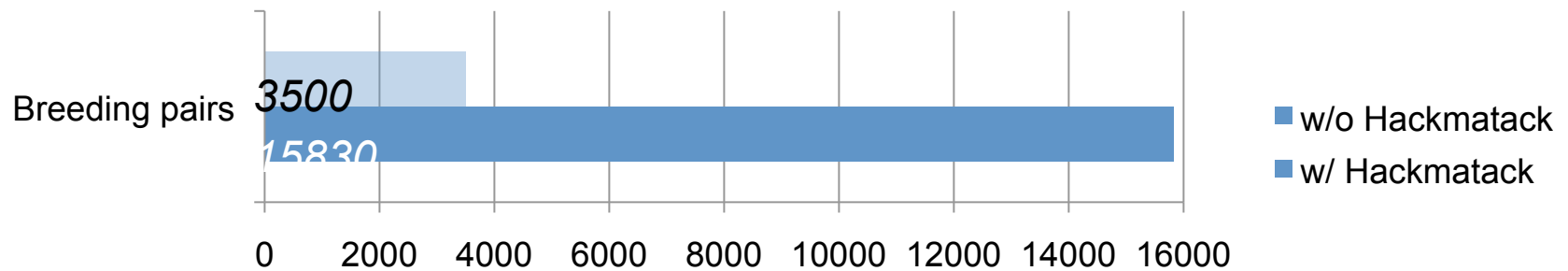


Grassland Birds



DICKCISSEL
(*Spiza americana*)

Target Species for Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan,
Region 3 Conservation Priority

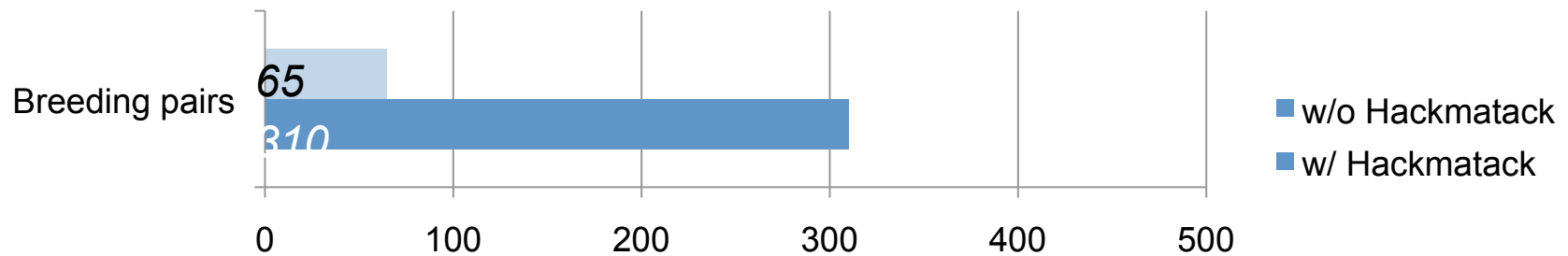


Grassland Birds



UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*)

Illinois State Endangered Species,
Target Species for IL & WI Wildlife Action Plans,
Region 3 Conservation Priority

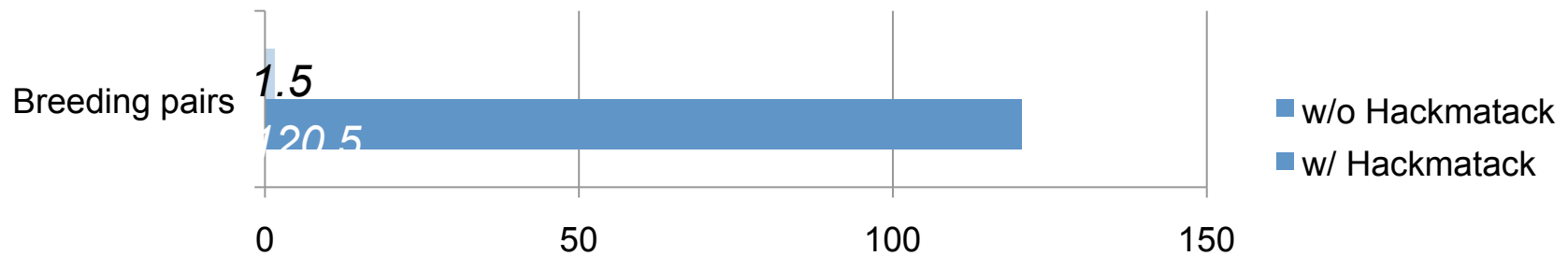


Grassland Birds



SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

Illinois State Endangered Species,
Target Species for Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan,
Region 3 Conservation Priority



Hackmatack isn't *just* for the Birds...



Hackmatack is for *YOU*!!





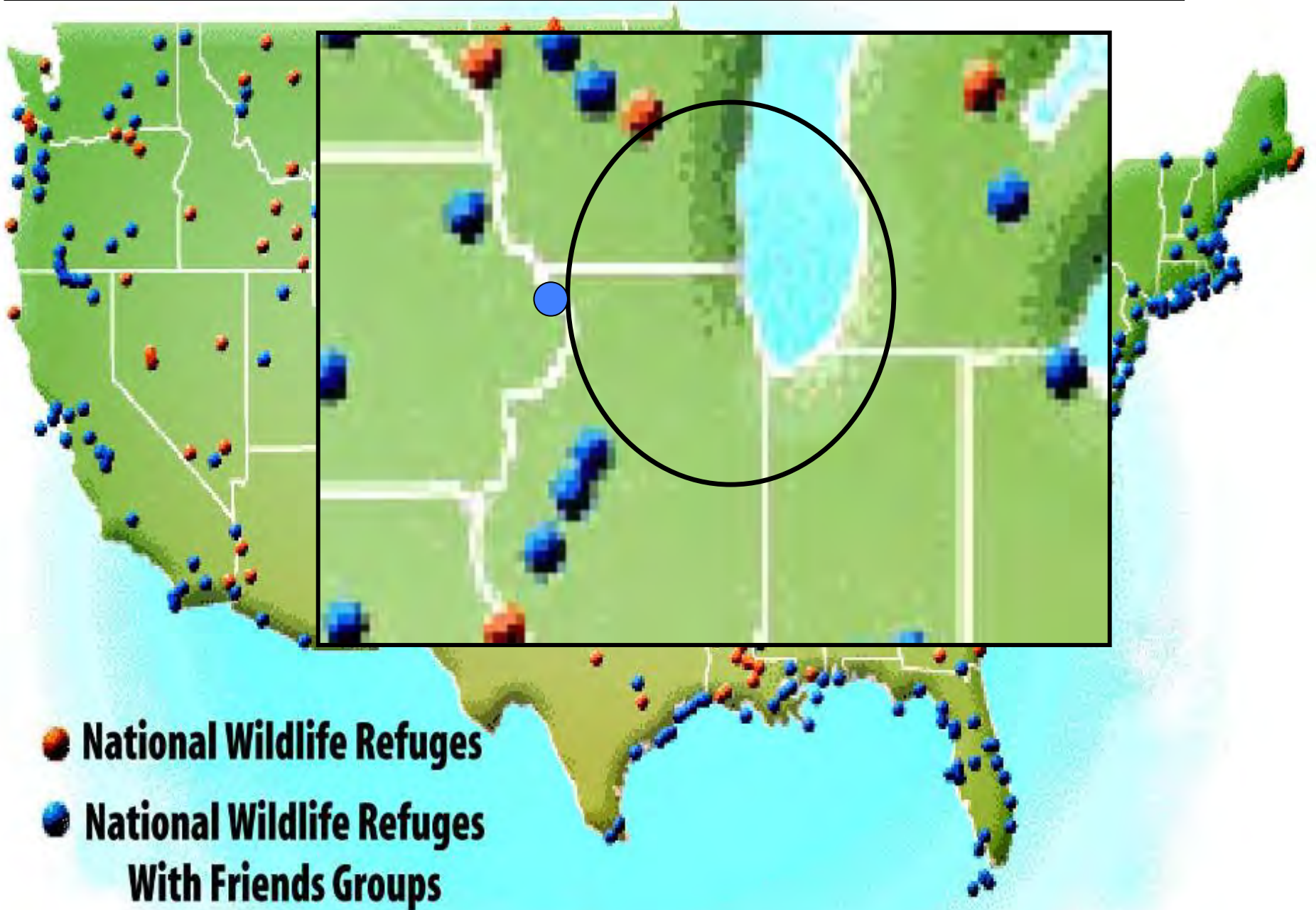
Hackmatack is for people who love this land

Photographer Ray Mathis
www.pbase.com/raymathis/proposed_hackmatack_nwr

Friends of Hackmatack Steering Committee



Before Hackmatack, no refuge within an hour's drive of Chicago and Milwaukee...





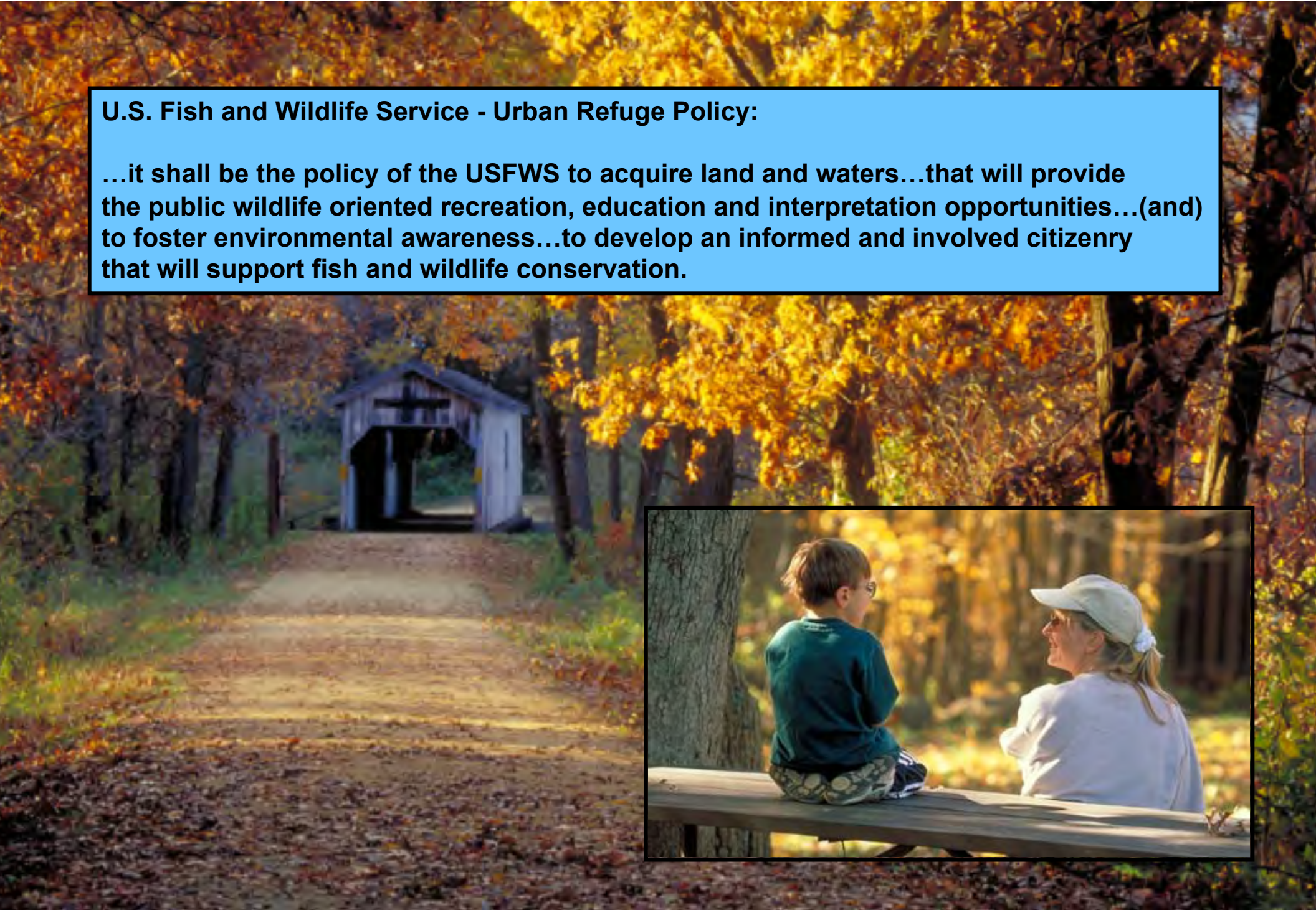
Whooping crane



Reintroduction project by the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP), a coalition of public and private organizations.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Urban Refuge Policy:

...it shall be the policy of the USFWS to acquire land and waters...that will provide the public wildlife oriented recreation, education and interpretation opportunities...(and) to foster environmental awareness...to develop an informed and involved citizenry that will support fish and wildlife conservation.



**Sierra Club Inner City Outings-
Pritzker College Prep, Chicago
Fall 2011 - 2014**



Refuges connect people with nature...



Refuge would complement existing recreation in the area.

Richmond, Hebron, Ringwood IL and Genoa City WI are crossroads of existing and planned trails.



Refuge Oriented Tourism

- ✓ Nationally National Wildlife Refuges
 - ✓ 40 million people visit annually
 - ✓ Generating \$1.7 billion in sales for local economies
 - ✓ creating 24,000 private sector jobs and
 - ✓ producing \$454 million in employment income.
- ✓ Regionally Chicago area birding community generates more than \$356 million per year into local economies.
- ✓ Locally: Fermata study estimated 200,000 visitors spending \$7 - \$25 million annually at Hackmatack



People Overwhelming Supported Hackmatack

Hackmatack is about to land!

- Over 400 came out to public meetings on the Environmental Assessment
- 3000 comments, mainly in support of the refuge, received by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- We crashed the USFWS server!

... and it needs help from its friends!!

Red-tailed hawk photo courtesy of David C. Olson Photography, Rockford, IL



Today

Friends of Hackmatack has become **Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge**

- Joining the ranks of hundreds of Friends Groups
- Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation
- Applied for 501(c)(3) status
- Friends Gatherings
- Working with USFWS
 - Monthly Land Protection/Communications calls
 - Events for Public

Quarterly Friends Gatherings

March 11, 2014 *celebrating 111th anniversary of the refuge system*



Transition from advocating for our refuge to becoming a Friends group...



Russ Engelke,
Hackmatack's
USFWS Liaison



Tom Larson, retired
USFWS



International Migratory Bird Day

Bird Banding at Glacial Park

8-9:30 AM April 26 & 27



More 2014 Events

- Friends Gatherings- June 10, Sept. 9, Dec. 9
- October 12-The Big Sit

The concept is simplicity itself: find a good spot for bird watching, sit in one spot for 24 hours, and count all the bird species you see or hear.

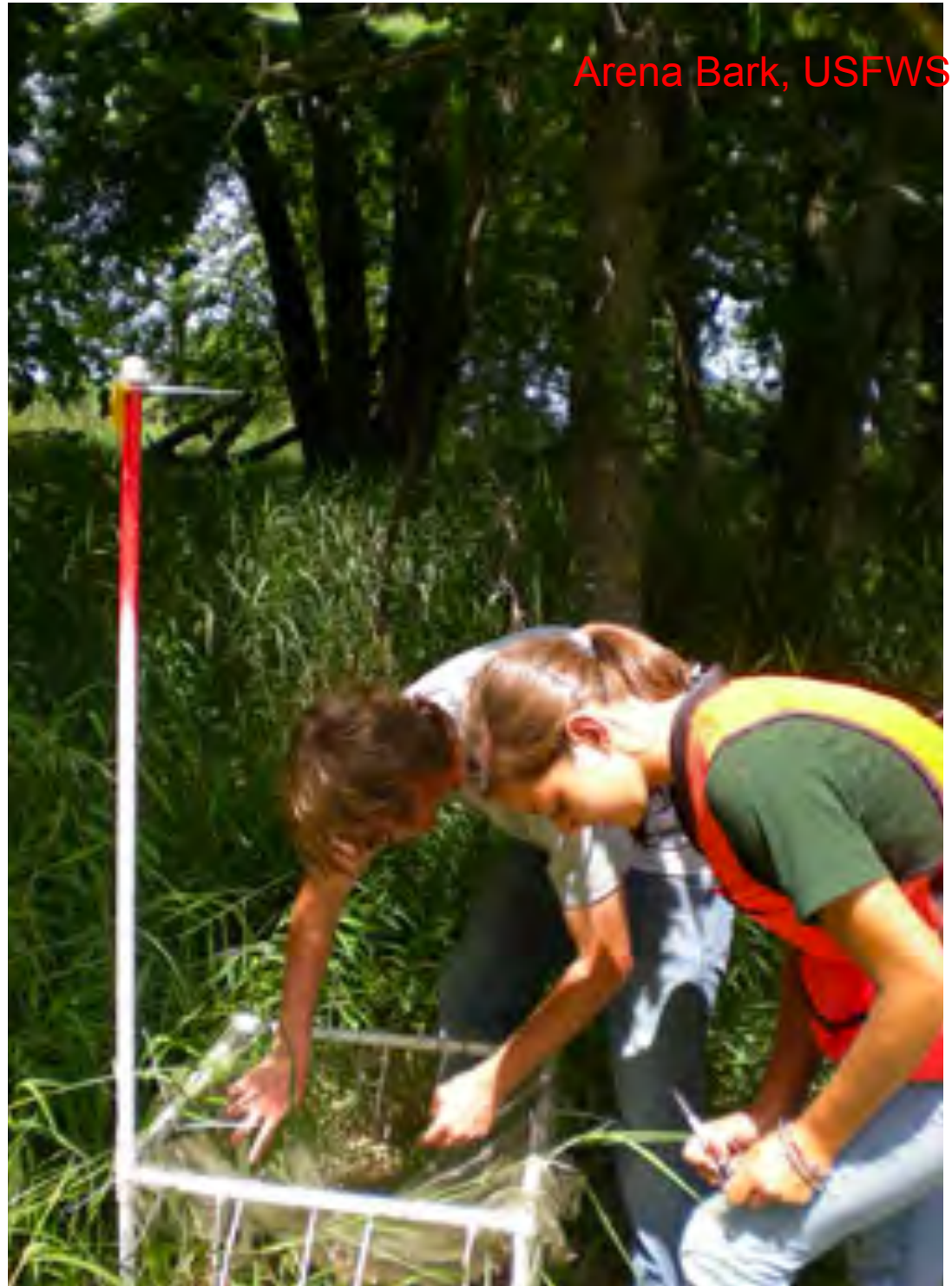


Michael Carlo,



Hackmatack NWR Youth Conservation Corps

- 10 week paid employment
- 4 teens, aged 15-18
- 2 girls, 2 boys
- from Walworth County WI or McHenry County IL
- Chosen by lottery
- Training in first aid, basic work skills, natural history and environmental awareness



Contact Us



Contact: Russ Engelke
Assistant District Manager
Upper Mississippi River National
Wildlife & Fish Refuge

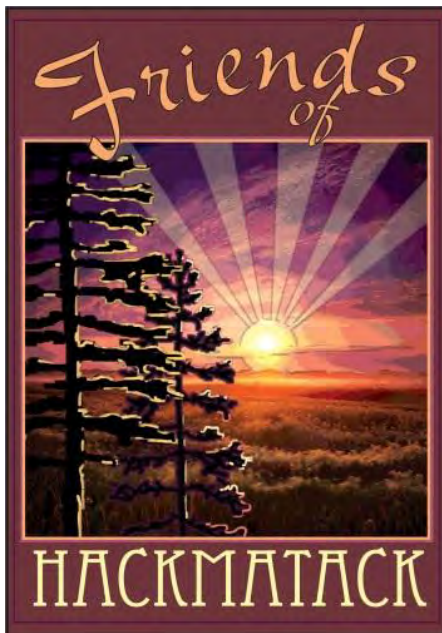
Phone: 815-273-2732 x 113

Email: Russell_Engelke@fws.gov

Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/hackmatak/>

Facebook: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service Midwest Region



Contact: Cindy Skrukrud/ Tom von
Geldern

Secretary, Friends of Hackmatack NWR

Email: info@hackmatacknwr.org

Website: www.hackmatacknwr.org

Facebook: Friends of Hackmatack
National Wildlife Refuge

A vibrant sunset scene over a field. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting in a river that flows through the landscape. The foreground is filled with tall grasses and various wildflowers, including yellow and purple blooms. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and purple. The overall mood is peaceful and inspirational.

“Nothing happens unless first a dream.”
Carl Sandburg